

Vernal

Horse Point is a high promontory overlooking the Colorado River. From that point one can see the river 2,000 feet below in the bottom of the canyon. A spectacular panorama of deep gorges, buttes, high cliffs, and mesas — all of brilliant hues — stretches out for miles. In fact, from Dead Horse Point one can see more than 1,000 square miles of eroded and highly colored country.

"The grandeur and magnitude of the scene from this point surpass description. Some of the people who have visited this place maintain that it is the most spectacular of all of Utah's scenic marvels," declared Mary.

"Why is it called 'Dead Horse Point?'" Linda Palmer asked.

"Toward the close of the past century more than a million mustangs roamed the region from the Pacific Coast to the Rio Grande. The farms of Missouri and neighboring states supplied a good market for horses, and so Utah cowboys shipped thousands of them to that section of the country.

"The point had a narrow entrance

which made a natural corral for the wild horses. Shortly before 1900 cowboys drove a large band of horses on the promontory, took the ones they wanted, and left 50 of the least desirable ones there. These abandoned mustangs, unable to find the narrow opening, ran around in circles on the point. At times they looked over the edge of the rim at the water of the Colorado 2,000 feet below, which they had no way of reaching. Finally they all choked to death — and so the place was named 'Dead Horse Point,'" answered Mary.

### Dinosaur National Monument

"Linda, we'll have your report now, please," stated the instructor.

"My report is on a national monument which differs greatly from those already discussed," she said. "I am to tell you about the Dinosaur National Monument, which contains nearly 330 square miles lying in Utah and Colorado. However, its important feature is the Dinosaur Quarry, located six miles north of Jensen, which is near Vernal."

Fossil dinosaur bones uncovered at Fossil Quarry, Dinosaur National Monument near Vernal, Utah

-Utah

-Hunter p43

Photo — courtesy Dinosaur National Monument

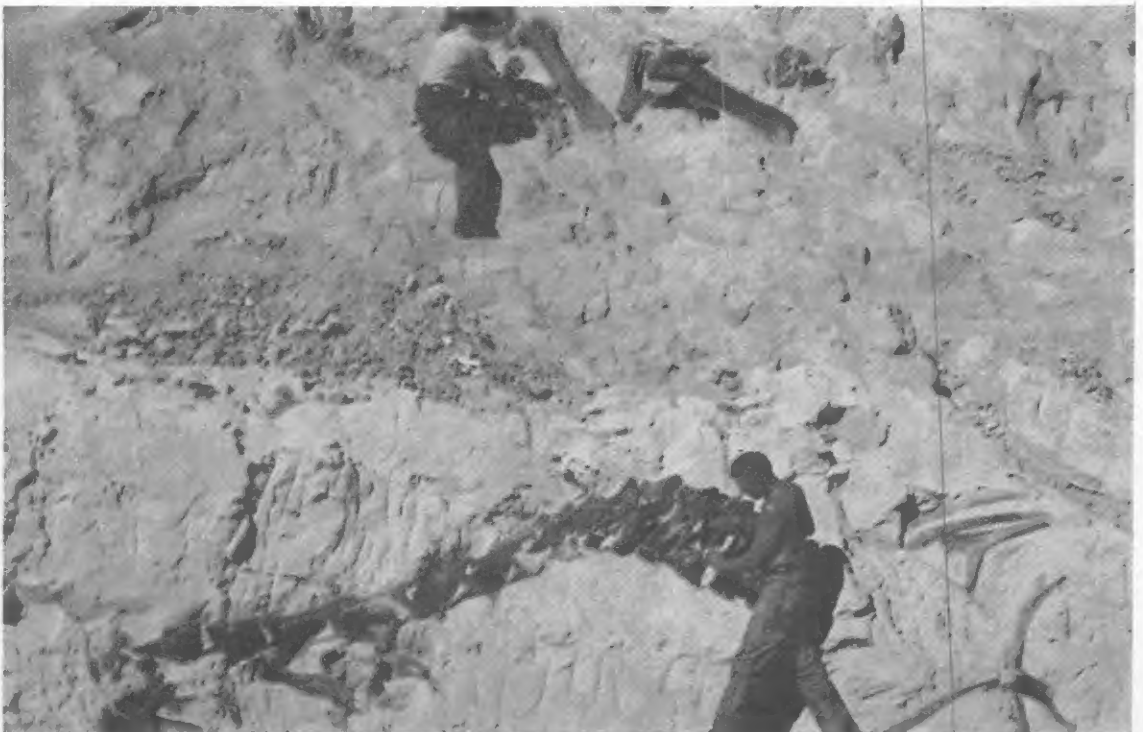




Photo — courtesy Dinosaur National Monument

*Allosaurus* (foreground), a large meat-eating dinosaur measuring 30 feet in length and weighing several tons

"What does the actual word 'dinosaur' mean?" Edward Meyer asked.

"It means 'terrible lizard,'" Linda replied, "and I think that is an apt name to describe these prehistoric reptiles which vanished from the earth ages ago.

"Dinosaur bones were first discovered near Jensen in 1909 by Earl Douglass of the Carnegie Museum. Since then, 26 nearly complete skeletons have been recovered, with 10 dinosaur species represented. The longest skeleton, that of the *Diplodocus*, was 84 feet, and the shortest was seven feet. Many of the bones have been assembled as complete skeletons and placed in museums. A dinosaur skeleton can be seen at the University of Utah.

"In the Dinosaur Quarry, rock layers have been removed to expose the bones. Several partial skeletons have been exposed and can be seen by visitors. Recently, the National Park Service erected a large Visitor Center at the Dinosaur

Quarry, which protects the fossil dinosaur bones from the weather.

"It is an interesting and instructive trip to visit the Dinosaur Quarry," concluded Linda.

#### **Timpanogos Cave National Monument**

Mr. Madsen stated, "Our last report will be given by Stephen."

"I am to report on Timpanogos Cave National Monument," Stephen said. "This cave is located on the north end of Mt. Timpanogos in Utah County. A trail from American Fork Canyon winds for a mile and a half up the steep side of the mountain to the cave's entrance.

"When one enters, he finds the awe-inspiring beauty of another world unfolding before his eyes. There are the dainty 'Jewel Box,' the shining 'Chocolate Falls,' and the 'Great Heart of Timpanogos' — names given to the shapes nature has created. Crystals of pink and white glisten throughout the cave.



"Also, what appear to be icicles which hang from the cave's ceiling and pedestals which stand on the floor are stalactites and stalagmites formed by calcium in dripping water. Some of these formations take on the likeness of

a giant's comb or draperies hanging on a wall. Timpanogos Cave is well lighted and easy to get to. I visited it last summer, and I have never seen anything so awe-inspiring and thrilling," Stephen concluded.



Photo — courtesy Dinosaur National Monument

Dinosaurs *Allosaurus* and *Diplodocus* and other animals

### *Thinking, Remembering, and Discovering*

1. Draw a map of Utah, locating the national parks and monuments that are found in our state. Also, place on your map the names and location of towns and cities near these scenic attractions.
2. Many fine color pictures of the national parks and monuments are available. Find as many as you can for a bulletin board display.
3. Why are the national parks and monuments of great economic and recreational value to the people of Utah?
4. Make some suggestions for greater use of our natural scenic wonders.
5. Make a list of the things each of us can do to help preserve our parks and monuments.

## 7 Story of Utah's Spanish and Mexican Periods

### Utah owned by Spain and Mexico

"Did you know, class, that following the discovery of America by Columbus Spain became the first owner of the country that is now Utah?" Mr. Madsen remarked. And then he continued, "When Mexico gained its independence from Spain in 1821, Utah passed into Mexican ownership. It remained a part of Mexico until the year following the arrival of Brigham Young and his band in the Salt Lake Valley. Through a treaty with Mexico in 1848, Utah became part of the United States.

"Perhaps, also, it is of interest to you to learn that in 1540, which was nearly 70 years before our English ancestors settled Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607—their first American colony—Spanish explorers had arrived at the southern border of Utah."

### Coronado's search for Cibola

"Mr. Madsen, I have heard that the Spaniards had their American headquarters in the City of Mexico at that time. If so, why did they, at that early date, come more than 2,000 miles northward, traveling through mountains and deserts, to visit the border of Utah?" Jane Brown asked.

"They were searching for treasures—gold and silver, Jane," Mr. Madsen replied. "In Mexico they had found mineral wealth in abundance. This caused them to desire more wealth. Indians brought them stories of an abundance of gold in other parts of the country, accounts which they accepted as true. Among the tales told the Spaniards were those regarding the 'Seven Cities of Cibola.' The Indians, pointing northward, said, 'In the direction you're going

A fall scene in Big Cottonwood Canyon, one of six canyons in Wasatch Mountains east of Salt Lake City

